Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James
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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

August 7, 2017 –

- The Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB) wishes to provide some important information concerning incidents linked to substance intoxication in many of our communities over the last several weeks.

- Drug intoxication is an important issue across Canada with a rise in recent years of overdose-related deaths due to drug consumption as well as contaminated drugs.

- We are following up the situation closely to better understand whether recent cases were drug related, know the drugs that were involved, and to assess whether these drugs were contaminated.

- The CBHSSJB and its Public Health Department will work closely with The Community Miyupimaatisiiun Centres (clinics), Chisasibi regional hospital, and other health care partners in order to monitor the situation in the coming weeks.

- Substances such as alcohol, cocaine, speed, cannabis are in our communities. Intoxication may occur when these substances are used alone or mixed together, However, any of these street drug risk being contaminated with other unknown substances that may also cause negative health effects. For recent cases, there is no indication that we are dealing with contaminated drugs.

- The present situation is putting some of our community members at risk for developing severe addiction struggles.

- In addition, the immediate reaction to alcohol and drug intoxications include respiratory arrest, cardiac arrest, convulsions, breathing problems, irreversible renal (kidney) failure and more. If you feel sick after the use of any substances, you need to stop using it and you should make your way to your local community emergency health services for immediate assistance.

- If you, or someone you know, are using alcohol and/or drugs excessively, or struggling to quit, there is hope to make positive changes in your life. There are services available in your local CMCs and we encourage you consult and talk about it.

- We recommend that community members reduce the amount that they consume or refrain from consuming drugs at all.

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